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Job growth continues in April, and labor force participation rises

OLYMPIA – Washington’s economy continued to add jobs in April, but a sharp rise in labor force participation pushed the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate up to 5.5 percent from 5.2 percent in March, Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee announced today. The nation’s unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, unchanged from March.

“A robust economy encouraged more than 18,000 Washingtonians to join the labor force last month,” Lee said. “As we move forward, the fundamentals for job creation are quite favorable.”

Before adjusting for normal seasonal variations, the unemployment rate decreased from 5.6 percent in March to 5.5 percent in April, and nonfarm payroll employment increased by 19,000. Advances in private sector employment accounted for all of the increase in payroll jobs from March to April; government employment was down slightly.

In a now familiar refrain, employment gains were broad-based in both goods-producing and service-providing industries. Construction employment (4,500) continued to rise, amid persistent strength in building activity. Washington’s factories added jobs again in April (1,200), with most of the increase coming from durable goods industries, particularly transportation equipment. Natural resources and mining employment was flat during April.

After a weak start to the year, leisure and hospitality (6,000) had the strongest month-to-month employment gain for the second month in a row. Professional and business services employment rose solidly again in April (3,600). Educational and health services and retail trade saw similar size gains last month, 1,800 and 1,600 respectively. Financial activities employment rose by 700 last month, while wholesale trade saw a smaller increase. Government was one of just two industries to display a slight decrease in jobs. Information employment also slipped, as weakness in telecommunications continued to offset modest gains in software.

Since last April, payroll employment in Washington increased 53,300, or 2.0 percent. By contrast, U.S. employment was up 1.7 percent. The strongest gains were evident in professional and business services (11,800) and retail trade (9,600), followed by education and health services (8,700) and construction (7,200). Manufacturing employment increased 3,500 over the year, with a net gain of 6,600 jobs in durable goods industries more than offsetting a loss of 3,100 jobs in nondurable goods. Information was the only major sector to lose jobs since last April (200).

The number of unemployed workers fell by 23,000 since last April. Employment Security encourages the 177,000 unemployed workers in Washington to visit a local WorkSource office and check online job listings at www.go2worksource.com.

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Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work ¹

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted	Numeric Change					
	April 2005 (Prel)	March 2005 (Rev)	April 2004 (Rev)	March 2004 (Rev)	Mar. 2005 to Apr. 2005	Apr. 2004 to Apr. 2005
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers	2,737.2	2,718.2	2,683.9	2,659.7	19.0	53.3
Natural Resources and Mining	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.3	0.0	0.1
Logging	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.2	-0.1	-0.3
Construction	166.2	162.5	159.0	155.5	3.7	7.2
Construction of Buildings	43.2	42.5	41.9	41.3	0.7	1.3
Heavy and Civil Engineering	19.7	18.8	19.6	18.2	0.9	0.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	103.3	101.2	97.5	96.0	2.1	5.8
Manufacturing	264.7	263.5	261.2	258.9	1.2	3.5
Durable Goods	186.8	185.7	180.2	179.1	1.1	6.6
Wood Product Manufacturing	18.4	18.6	18.0	17.7	-0.2	0.4
Fabricated Metal Products	17.7	17.6	17.1	16.9	0.1	0.6
Computer and Electronic Products	21.7	21.7	22.0	22.0	0.0	-0.3
Transportation Equipment	77.8	77.0	72.9	72.9	0.8	4.9
Aerospace Products and Parts	65.0	64.5	61.0	61.0	0.5	4.0
Nondurable Goods	77.9	77.8	81.0	79.8	0.1	-3.1
Food Manufacturing	31.9	31.9	33.6 2/	32.3 2/	0.0	-1.7
Wholesale Trade	119.9	119.6	118.9	116.9	0.3	1.0
Retail Trade	313.0	311.4	303.4	300.5	1.6	9.6
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	43.2	42.7	41.9	41.3	0.5	1.3
Food and Beverage Stores	59.8	59.6	58.3	58.0	0.2	1.5
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	24.3	24.6	23.2	23.5	-0.3	1.1
General Merchandise Stores	55.7	55.2	52.7	52.5	0.5	3.0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	90.8	90.7	87.6	86.7	0.1	3.2
Utilities	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.1
Transportation and Warehousing	86.3	86.2	83.2	82.3	0.1	3.1
Air Transportation	12.1	12.1	12.4	12.4	0.0	-0.3
Water Transportation	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.2
Truck Transportation	23.4	23.0	22.6	22.0	0.4	0.8
Support Activities for Transportation	16.6	17.0	16.0	15.7	-0.4	0.6
Support Activities for Water Transportation	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.2	-0.5	-0.2
Warehousing and Storage	9.2	9.2	7.9	8.1	0.0	1.3
Information	91.8	92.1	92.0	92.1	-0.3	-0.2
Software Publishers	40.5	40.3	38.7	38.6	0.2	1.8
Telecommunications	25.2	25.4	26.7	27.2	-0.2	-1.5
Financial Activities	151.8	151.1	151.1	151.4	0.7	0.7
Finance and Insurance	102.4	102.1	102.6	103.3	0.3	-0.2
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	52.6	52.5	53.3	53.1	0.1	-0.7
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	38.1	38.1	38.1	38.8	0.0	0.0
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	49.4	49.0	48.5	48.1	0.4	0.9
Professional and Business Services	310.7	307.1	298.9	294.3	3.6	11.8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	140.2	139.8	136.3	136.3	0.4	3.9
Legal Services	20.9	20.8	20.7	20.6	0.1	0.2
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	32.4	32.2	31.3	31.2	0.2	1.1
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	21.7	21.6	21.0	21.0	0.1	0.7
Management of Companies and Enterprises	33.5	33.2	32.8	32.8	0.3	0.7
Admin., Suppt. Svcs., Waste Mgmt., and Remediation	137.0	134.1	129.8	125.2	2.9	7.2
Employment Services	48.4	47.4	44.2	42.6	1.0	4.2
Education and Health Services	329.5	327.7	320.8	318.7	1.8	8.7
Educational Services	45.8	46.0	45.6	46.1	-0.2	0.2
Hospitals	63.6	63.5	62.3	62.1	0.1	1.3
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	53.8	53.9	52.6	52.4	-0.1	1.2
Social Assistance	49.5	48.2	47.7	46.5	1.3	1.8
Leisure and Hospitality	254.7	248.7	252.3	247.0	6.0	2.4
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	44.0	41.9	43.9	43.0	2.1	0.1
Accommodation	28.5	27.7	27.8	26.9	0.8	0.7
Food Services and Drinking Places	182.2	179.1	180.6	177.1	3.1	1.6
Government	534.1	534.3	530.4	530.3	-0.2	3.7
Federal	69.5	69.3	69.1	68.5	0.2	0.4
State	152.9	153.8	151.6	152.8	-0.9	1.3
State Educational Services	85.3	86.2	84.7	86.0	-0.9	0.6
Local	311.7	311.2	309.7	309.0	0.5	2.0
Local Educational Services	157.2	157.4	156.9	156.9	-0.2	0.3
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.2

¹Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, & private household employees. Includes all full- & part-time wage & salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. ²Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management dispute.

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State

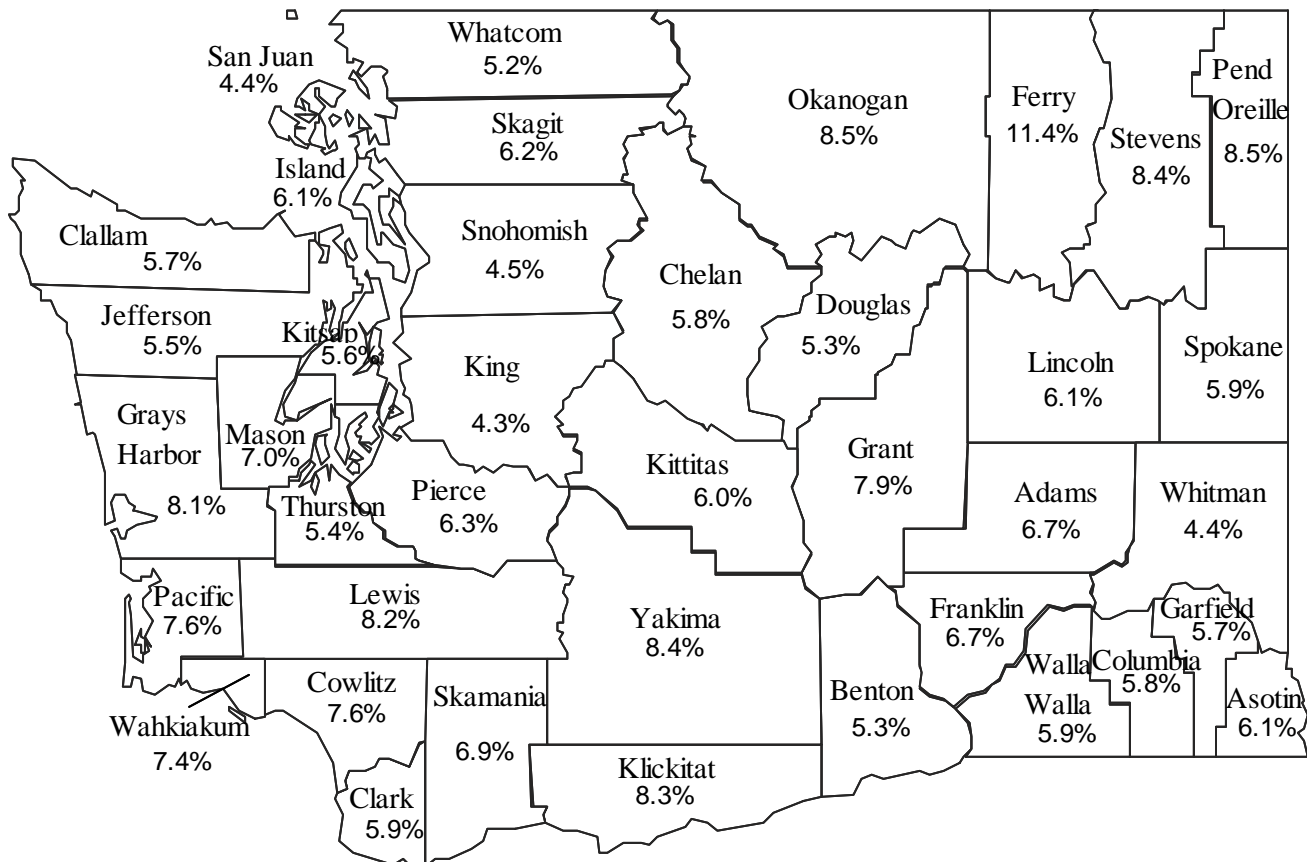
<i>(In Thousands)</i>	April 2005 (Prel)	March 2005 (Rev)	April 2004 (Rev)	March 2004 (Rev)
<i>Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment:</i>				
Washington State	5.5%	5.2%	6.3%	6.5%
United States	5.2%	5.2%	5.5%	5.7%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted:</i>				
Resident Civilian Labor Force	3,248.5	3,251.0	3,208.1	3,226.0
Employment	3,071.1	3,067.9	3,007.5	2,992.2
Unemployment	177.4	183.1	200.6	233.8
Percent of Labor Force	5.5%	5.6%	6.3%	7.2%

Unemployment Rates by County, April 2005

Washington State = 5.5%

United States = 4.9%

Not Seasonally Adjusted



Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas 1/

Date: 5/17/05
Benchmark: March 2004

	April 2005 Preliminary				March 2005 Revised				April 2004 Revised			
Not Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate
Washington State Total	3,248,500	3,071,100	177,400	5.5	3,251,000	3,067,900	183,100	5.6	3,208,100	3,007,500	200,600	6.3
Bellingham MSA	102,800	97,500	5,300	5.2	103,000	97,700	5,300	5.1	98,900	93,200	5,800	5.8
Bremerton MSA	121,600	114,800	6,900	5.6	122,400	116,000	6,400	5.2	119,000	111,800	7,200	6.0
Kennewick-Richland-Pasco MSA . .	115,800	109,400	6,500	5.6	114,000	107,600	6,400	5.6	112,900	105,700	7,200	6.4
Benton County 2/	88,100	83,400	4,600	5.3	86,500	82,100	4,300	5.0	85,800	80,600	5,100	6.0
Franklin County 2/	27,800	25,900	1,900	6.7	27,600	25,500	2,100	7.4	27,100	25,000	2,100	7.6
Longview MSA (Cowlitz)	43,610	40,290	3,330	7.6	43,930	40,770	3,160	7.2	43,150	39,380	3,760	8.7
Mt. Vernon-Anacortes MSA (Skagit)	56,770	53,260	3,510	6.2	56,670	53,270	3,390	6.0	53,530	49,650	3,890	7.3
Olympia MSA	123,200	116,600	6,600	5.4	123,800	117,600	6,300	5.1	119,500	112,500	7,000	5.9
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MD*	1,332,300	1,274,900	57,500	4.3	1,328,800	1,266,100	62,700	4.7	1,326,600	1,258,300	68,300	5.1
King County 2/	994,900	952,600	42,300	4.3	991,700	946,100	45,600	4.6	989,700	940,300	49,300	5.0
Snohomish County 2/	337,400	322,200	15,200	4.5	337,100	320,000	17,100	5.1	336,900	318,000	18,900	5.6
Spokane MSA	224,600	211,300	13,300	5.9	226,400	213,000	13,400	5.9	222,200	207,700	14,500	6.5
Tacoma Metropolitan Division	379,000	355,000	24,000	6.3	381,500	358,600	22,900	6.0	373,400	346,600	26,800	7.2
Wenatchee MSA	66,850	63,090	3,760	5.6	66,730	63,090	3,640	5.5	65,420	61,410	4,000	6.1
Chelan County 2/	44,540	41,950	2,580	5.8	44,480	41,950	2,530	5.7	43,630	40,840	2,790	6.4
Douglas County 2/	22,310	21,140	1,180	5.3	22,260	21,140	1,120	5.0	21,790	20,580	1,210	5.5
Yakima MSA	113,300	103,800	9,500	8.4	112,200	102,600	9,600	8.5	112,900	102,500	10,400	9.2
Aberdeen LMA (Grays Harbor) . . .	31,110	28,580	2,530	8.1	31,330	28,850	2,490	7.9	30,450	27,830	2,620	8.6
Centralia LMA (Lewis)	30,980	28,440	2,540	8.2	30,930	28,460	2,470	8.0	30,150	27,530	2,620	8.7
Ellensburg LMA (Kittitas)	19,640	18,470	1,180	6.0	19,340	18,130	1,210	6.3	19,220	17,910	1,310	6.8
Moses Lake LMA (Grant)	36,170	33,300	2,870	7.9	35,710	32,660	3,050	8.5	36,380	33,210	3,160	8.7
Oak Harbor LMA (Island County) .	32,000	30,000	2,000	6.1	32,100	30,200	1,800	5.7	31,300	29,200	2,200	6.9
Port Angeles LMA (Clallam)	33,150	31,250	1,900	5.7	33,190	31,300	1,890	5.7	32,860	30,870	1,990	6.1
Pullman LMA (Whitman)	21,640	20,700	950	4.4	21,700	20,830	870	4.0	20,640	19,790	850	4.1
Shelton LMA (Mason)	23,580	21,940	1,640	7.0	23,780	22,170	1,600	6.7	23,060	21,300	1,760	7.6
Walla Walla LMA (Walla Walla) . .	29,270	27,540	1,730	5.9	29,140	27,360	1,790	6.1	29,340	27,590	1,750	6.0
Adams	7,690	7,180	520	6.7	7,780	7,190	590	7.6	7,860	7,080	780	9.9
Asotin 2/	10,280	9,650	630	6.1	10,490	9,750	740	7.1	10,270	9,640	630	6.1
Clark 2/	193,400	182,000	11,400	5.9	197,100	183,300	13,800	7.0	190,500	176,300	14,200	7.5
Columbia	2,110	1,990	120	5.8	1,560	1,420	140	8.8	2,230	2,100	130	5.7
Ferry	2,830	2,510	320	11.4	2,810	2,490	320	11.4	2,830	2,460	370	13.2
Garfield	1,070	1,010	60	5.7	1,060	990	70	6.2	1,100	1,040	60	5.4
Jefferson	13,630	12,880	750	5.5	13,660	12,920	750	5.5	13,490	12,670	820	6.1
Klickitat	9,230	8,470	770	8.3	9,030	8,210	830	9.1	9,320	8,380	950	10.1
Lincoln	4,810	4,520	290	6.1	4,800	4,520	280	5.8	4,620	4,320	300	6.5
Okanogan	18,630	17,040	1,590	8.5	18,860	17,140	1,720	9.1	18,950	17,260	1,690	8.9
Pacific	9,170	8,480	700	7.6	9,040	8,390	650	7.2	8,980	8,270	710	7.9
Pend Oreille	5,160	4,720	440	8.5	5,190	4,690	490	9.5	4,980	4,520	460	9.2
San Juan	8,120	7,770	360	4.4	7,870	7,510	360	4.5	7,890	7,520	370	4.7
Skamania 2/	4,920	4,580	340	6.9	5,070	4,610	460	9.1	4,810	4,430	370	7.7
Stevens	18,360	16,820	1,540	8.4	18,460	16,790	1,670	9.1	17,850	16,260	1,600	8.9
Wahkiakum	1,620	1,500	120	7.4	1,680	1,550	130	7.4	1,580	1,450	130	8.2

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

2/ Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.

Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

*Metropolitan Division